people serving their fellow citizens by volunteering to help those less fortunate. Over 10,000 students have signed up to help Habitat for Humanity build houses through their Collegiate Challenge program breaking down barriers to homeownership and breaking down the stereotype of a typical college kid on spring break at the same time.

Clearly, there is still much work to be done. We are focusing our efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing in communities across the country. Today we are here to reaffirm that commitment and recognize all the hard work that has already been done. I would therefore like to take this opportunity during National Homeownership Month to thank those organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, that work to help families achieve the dream of homeownership.

I would also like to commend the Housing Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Bob NEY, today for its hard work to break down the barriers to homeownership faced by too many Americans. By the end of this week the subcommittee will have held 11 hearings as part of its effort to pursue an aggressive legislative agenda. At the top of that list is the American Dream Downpayment Act which will provide \$200 million in grant funds assisting approximately 40,000 low-income families with down payment and closing costs on their first homes.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in participating in the Congress Building America program and look forward to the many continued efforts which will build communities across the nation and help thousands of American families buy homes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, the resolution that expresses the Congress's support for the Habitat For Humanity and the good work this great organization does for American families throughout the Nation.

I am proud to say that this wonderful institution was born in Americus, GA, within the district that I am so privileged to represent. Since its inception, this model of compassion and commitment to humanity has spawned similar groups, and has changed the way many Americans view the problem of homelessness and derelict housing. At this very moment somewhere in America, a home is being built by the Habitat For Humanity. The number of volunteers now exceeds 200,000 and is growing. More than 100,000 homes have been built and renovated, and more are being completed across the country at a rate of 1,000 per month. But we can do even more.

This resolution encourages Members of Congress to participate in "Congress Building America" events with local Habitat For Humanity affiliates in their home districts that will continue and increase the homebuilding effort all across America.

Mr. Speaker, Habitat For Humanity works. What seemed like a dream to those who had the vision in Americus so many years ago, is now becoming a reality. Decent housing for every American—thanks to Habitat For Humanity, this is an idea whose time has come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The time of the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) has expired.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr.

GARY G. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 43

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 342, KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 276 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 276

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 342) to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under that Act, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a standard rule for consideration of conference reports and waives all points of order against consideration of the conference report.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, the process of reauthorizing the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Family Violence Prevention Treatment Act completes a promise made to the American people that was begun in the 107th Congress. Unfortunately, the last Congress adjourned before consensus reached between the two bodies on this very important issue. By taking up the conference report on the reintroduced legislation today, Congress is demonstrating an ongoing commitment to ensuring that programs to prevent child abuse, neglect, and family violence can continue to work and to protect American families.

The underlying conference report that we are debating maintains important Federal resources for identifying

and addressing issues of domestic violence. It supports efforts to ensure that the current programs designed to address these issues are operating effectively and efficiently, and that they promote the prevention of child abuse before these heinous acts can occur.

The conference report retains language promoting partnerships between child protective services and private and community-based organizations, including education and mental health systems, to provide child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment services. It improves the training, recruitment, and retention of individuals who are capable of providing services to children and families. It also increases the availability of casework supervisors for oversight and consultation, while simultaneously improving public education on the role of the child protective services system and appropriate reporting of suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect, to reduce the number of false or malicious allegations.

This conference report requires States to have provisions and procedures for administering criminal background checks to prospective foster and adoptive parents, and other adult relatives and nonrelatives residing in the household, and helps to improve the training opportunities and requirements of child protective services personnel to ensure their active collaboration with families, and their knowledge of legal duties with these individuals to protect children's individual rights.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also requires States to implement policies and procedures to address the needs of infants born and identification as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, including the requirement that healthcare providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants notify child protective services of the occurrence of such conditions in infants. It then requires the development and planning of safe care for such infants

Lastly, the conference report retains language that expands priority services to infants and young children who are born with a life-threatening condition or with other very special medical needs, to ensure that these special needs are met and that these special children have a chance in life.

If there is one issue upon which every single Member of this institution can agree, regardless of his or her political belief, it should be the need to prevent child abuse and domestic abuse. These atrocities and often silent crimes do lasting damage to the lives of individuals and the moral fabric of our society. There exists a responsibility incumbent upon each of us to enact laws that protect the most vulnerable in our society, and this conference report will go a very long way to accomplish that exactly that noble and moral goal.

I am pleased to note that the House version of this legislation, H.R. 14, easily passed through its committee of jurisdiction, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, earlier this year and then through the House by voice vote. Today's conference report should continue to enjoy widespread and overwhelming bipartisan support as it has already enjoyed tremendous support throughout the child abuse and family violence prevention advocacy communities.

I would ask each of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to demonstrate their commitment to American families, to American communities, and to America's future by supporting this conference report. In particular today, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), the House sponsor of this legislation; and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for their hard work in producing this conference report. I would also like to take this moment to commend the conferees from both bodies that have labored to produce this fine product.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance o my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Sessions), my friend, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying conference report for the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act. My colleagues know that the rules for conference reports in the House are typically closed, and today's rule is reflective of the longstanding tradition in the House to bring conference reports to the floor in a similar fashion.

Mr. Speaker, every time a child is abused or neglected, the whole human race suffers. With that sobering thought in mind, I support the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act. I support this conference report, because most States are facing severe budget deficits, and this is the only Federal legislation that targets child abuse and neglect. I support this conference report because States are dependent on Federal money to meet the increasing demand for community child abuse prevention programs. But realize this legislation does not begin to solve the overwhelming financial problems that the States are currently experiencing. In fact, critics of this bill including the director of the National Child Abuse Coalition say that there is a \$2.5 billion spending gap between the amount currently allocated towards prevention and protection and the amount required to handle this problem effectively.

The statistics on child abuse and neglect in this country are heart-wrench-

ing. The Department of Health and Human Services estimated that in 2001, 903,000 children in this country were victims of abuse or neglect. This figure represents an 11 percent increase from the previous year, and many child advocates say the stress of a bad economy and unemployment could be two reasons for the increase.

This bill includes funding for training and preventative programs for social workers and families and encourages partnerships between State child protective services and community organizations. It also requires foster parents and adoptive parents to undergo criminal background checks and mandates that States expand child abuse services to children born with drug-related problems.

Child abuse and neglect is everyone's problem and it affects us both morally and financially. The cost of training and preventative programs will be offset later when children who might have been burdens on society grow into upstanding citizens. From a financial perspective, the costs of child abuse and neglect to our society as a whole are staggering. Studies have documented the link between abuse and neglect in childhood with medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders in adulthood. Those who are abused as children are more likely to suffer from depression, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

The abused are also more likely to become juvenile delinquents and are 29 percent more likely to become criminals. Using that estimate, 36,000 of the children who were victims of abuse or neglect in 2001 can or may become criminals

I certainly hope that the work we are doing in this conference report will help curb this number and help those who need it. However, if we are going to come to the floor today and talk about child abuse and neglect, we will be remiss to not talk about the child neglect that occurred last week in this very Chamber when Republicans in this body refused to extend the child tax credit to more than 12 million children living in low-income families without attaching a significant cost to the bill that would have provided for those 12 million children.

Frankly, it baffles me how the rhetoric of Republicans in this body rarely meet the reality of their policies. The All-American Ťax Relief Act, which passed this House last week was filled with tax cuts that benefit the more well off in our society more than six times as much as they do the needy. The bill was another tax cut to the wealthy that further drives our country into debt and deficit spending, and it lacked even the slightest bit of fiscal responsibility. In truth, the child tax credit failed to provide relief to more than 12 million children who are growing up in low-income families. In truth, families making between \$10,500 and \$26,625 were excluded from this tax relief, including 1 million children of U.S. Armed Forces personnel. Perhaps

when Republicans talk about all Americans, they are really talking about all Americans in the upper tax brackets.

Mr. Speaker, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson noted, "A Nation as compassionate as ours should ensure that no child is a victim of abuse or neglect. The number of children that are being abused and neglected in this country is an unacceptable daily tragedy." Indeed, Secretary Thompson is correct.

But while this body helps communities fight child abuse and neglect throughout the country, we ought to first fight it right here in the House of Representatives. That we do not, Mr. Speaker, is an unacceptable daily tragedy

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the issue we have before us, this rule, this conference report that we are working on, really does talk about ways in which we can go and improve the lives of millions of children, where we can help families. Families, many times single parents, who are under the stress and strain of attempting to go to work, raise their family, meet their obligations in the community, to their schools, need some help, and I think that that is exactly what this bill does. It does it in a way that community-based organizations can become involved in the life and the opportunity to make not only their neighborhoods and their schools and their communities is safer and better, but they did it in a way that is a partnership.

This administration, this President, supports this. This administration, our President, when President Bush was the Governor of Texas, worked extensively in Texas across Texas in poor communities to try to make the lives better of children to provide them an opportunity to grow up and not only be in safe neighborhoods, but also have safety in their schools. So I think that the underlying legislation in this conference report is fabulous. It does a lot of things to make sure that as a Member of Congress, that all of us as Members of Congress, that we can become engaged in things that we not only can hold our head up high about but we can mentor with our President to make sure that people see this Congress as a caring group of men and women who not only want to ensure the success of people who many of whom we will never know their names but the children who live their lives and are prepared for the future.

I think that in the scheme of things this is a question that comes about not just to Members of Congress but as a demand on this country. The demand on our country is do America's greatest days lie in our future? Are we doing those things throughout the 40 some weeks that we are here in Washington, D.C. away from our families, are we handling the business of the people to

make sure that we make life better? And I think that answer is yes. Today the underlying legislation is yet another example of this Congress working together with this President to make sure that America's greatest days lie in our future because we are active, engaged, and involved with our communities and with people back home.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield to the gentlewoman from California, I would like to respond to my good friend and colleague by indicating that the President's remarks were to pass the Senate bill, and what we did last week was force a conference which is going to delay the tax cuts for the 12 million persons about whom I spoke earlier.

□ 1345

That is a reality, and, to my way of thinking, that is, in some respects, uncaring. It certainly is not compassionate. Everybody that is wealthy, including those of us here in Congress, will get our tax benefits, but many of the persons about whom I speak, including some in the military, will not receive a dime this year by virtue of the actions that we took last week.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to yield 5 minutes to my friend, the gentle-woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), who has been a leader in the fight for protecting children.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today as we stand here and discuss the conference report on the Keeping Our Children and Families Safe Act, I find it ironic that this week the Republican leadership can find it in their hearts to provide much-needed funding to prevent child abuse, which is decent and necessary, but last week they could not provide critical funding for low-income children without voting for additional tax breaks for the rich. These are the very children from low-income families who are statistically likely to suffer from child abuse, perhaps because of frustration piled on families struggling to make ends meet. This week, the Republicans care about children; last week, they did not. What kind of message is this?

The Republican's child tax credit bill, which the House debated last week, was a squandered opportunity to invest in all of our children and their families. We missed the chance to pass a child tax credit bill which would immediately grant our Nation's hardworking families their fair share of the tax credit.

The families I am talking about are those with dedicated workers that work long hours at low pay, who pay taxes and earn less than \$26,000 a year. It is unfortunate that Republicans believe these children and families do not contribute enough to deserve a break, a break now, like higher income families will get.

Republican actions last week left me no doubt that Republican priorities are dead wrong. Last week the House Republicans should have followed the other body and brought a child tax credit bill before us that would help children now, without burdening them with a tax debt later in life. But, according to the majority leader, "If we are going to do it, we should get something in exchange. If we give people a tax break that don't pay taxes, it is welfare."

Well, Mr. Speaker, these families do pay taxes. They are not seeking welfare. They are seeking the same acknowledgment for their hard work as the rich received in the Republican tax package. They deserve tax relief at the same time as other American families. Instead, this supposed party of "compassionate conservatism" has exploited the child tax credit issue to pass even more tax cuts for their wealthy friends. Instead of bringing up the other body's child tax credit bill costing \$3.5 billion with offsets to fully pay for it, they passed a bill costing over \$80 billion not paid for.

Mr. Speaker, this is at a time when America's Federal deficit will exceed \$400 billion, which, by the way, will be paid for by our children, their children, and their children, and on down the line.

Mr. Speaker, our priority must be putting money in the hands of working Americans while keeping our fiscal house in order. That way we can create jobs and build a strong economy. We are helping our children today by protecting them from child abuse, but being poor is abuse of another kind.

Mr. Speaker, children are 25 percent of the population of this Nation, but they are 100 percent of our Nation's future.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), from the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I do think it is unfortunate that when we are here to debate a bill on child abuse prevention, that we get into a debate about a legitimate difference of opinion as to tax policy. I think that that is unfortunate.

But, be that as it may, I also would say ironically I think it is unfortunate to hear the minority party constantly talking about their hatred of deficits, when every single subcommittee markup of any kind I have been in for the last several months, it is the other party trying to spend more money, more money, more money, and us trying to hold the line.

Let us talk about the rule before us. I rise in support of the rule, which I think is a fair rule, but I also rise in strong support of the bill.

I would like to talk about a particular provision that I worked very hard to get in in the Committee on Education and Workforce, and which I

think will do a tremendous amount to actually prevent child abuse, which is what we want to do.

What it does is it says that we look at the causes, the root causes, of child abuse. When you look for the root causes of child abuse to try to prevent it, you find this constant association between abusers of children and abusers of substance. We find it over and over again. Parents who are caught in abusive cycles with drugs and alcohol bring their problems to bear on their children, with often very devastating results in terms of physical brutality against children, sexual abuse of children and psychological abuse of children.

What we noticed, and I bring to bear on this experience my own time spent as a child protective service worker in my home of Bucks County, what we find is that children are born in hospitals every day in this country, and it as clear as can be they are born to mothers who are addicted. These are women who come to the hospitals and bear children who either suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome or they suffer from the systemic presence of a drug or actually have what is called neonatal abstinence syndrome. The child is in withdrawal from the drug. It is a pretty good indicator that this child may be returning to a home where it is not safe.

We have wrestled as a society with how do you protect these children. We do not want to necessarily deem the mothers as having abused the child by virtue of their abuse of the substance. We want to provide intervention, but how do you do that?

What this underlying conference committee report says is that when children appear in a hospital and are delivered and have these symptoms of substance abuse apparent, that the mandated reporters, the health care providers, must notify the child protective service agency, and that child protective service agency then must come in and make sure that there is a safe plan of care for the child.

It does not say that it finds abuse necessarily, it does not say that it finds dependency, it just says we need to intervene, we need to talk with the parents of this child and find out how they intend to overcome their own personal issues so that they can be prepared to nurture this vulnerable child.

I think this provision will go in a tremendous way to provide intervention for young children before they are ever subject to abuse, and help not only that child, but help the mother certainly and the father involved as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and thank the staffs of the committees that worked with us in the House and Senate, and the Committee on Rules for providing a rule under which this conference report can be considered.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield, I will just respond to my friend from Pennsylvania, who is an extremely thoughtful Member of this body, when he cites the fact that Democrats want to spend. Let me isolate that on the child tax credit: Democrats did want to spend the \$3.5 billion that the United States Senate wanted to spend, and each nickel of it was offset. Toward that end, I would urge that that kind of spending redounds to all of our benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yield-

ing me time.

Mr. Speaker, as we discuss keeping children and families safe, I cannot help but be reminded of a popular song that Marvin Gaye used to sing, and the words went sort of like this. He says, "Who will save the children? Who is willing to try? Who will save a world that is destined to die? Save the ba-

The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that when we talk about protecting families and saving children and refuse to provide a meager tax credit for those at the bottom of the barrel, for those who can barely survive, who can barely make it, it seems to me we are being contradictory.

It is abusive in my mind when we refuse to fully fund education so that every child can have a meaningful head start, to get a grip and a handle on life. It is abusive when we leave children out of being protected so that they can have the kind of health care that they need. And it is certainly abusive that we have 2.7 million people who have lost their jobs in the last 2 years and cannot find a way to really make it. And while I agree that programs and activities are always good and meaningful and beneficial, policies are even better.

I would hope that as we try and find these ways to protect our children, that which would protect their families by giving them a meaningful opportunity to earn a living, to have a job, to have the monies that are needed so that they are not frustrated and resort to behavior that causes them, in many instances, to abuse children.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would have to ask, who will save the world? Who is willing to try? Who will save a world that is destined to die? Let us save the children.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, hearing the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from Pennsylvania speak about children, about the things that we encounter and learn from time about tragedies that occur in people's lives with women who have problems along life, either drugs or alcohol, and also at the same time at which they are birthing babies and carry life within them, and the impact that it has on those children, not just at birth but throughout their life, it is a stunning problem in America.

But to hear the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from Pennsylvania speak about the great parts about this bill, about how this Congress can reach out, how we as a government can keep working with local communities to bring out the best, not only in their interaction with these mothers that are at risk, but also child abuse victims, it is all important.

I am hopeful we can also learn a lot from the things we have learned over the last few years about people who perpetrate crimes upon children, the identification of those kinds of people, so that communities can do a better job spotting these people and protecting their children. That is what this bill is about. That is the good part of what this bill is about.

I appreciate both these gentleman for coming and telling their stories, not only about why they support this bill, but why this rule is fair and important for us to pass and this conference report. Let us get it to the President and let the President continue to do the things for the American people that he did for the people of Texas when he was Governor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to taking care of children, I just wonder, and pardon me for asking, what \$1.1 trillion in the original tax cut during the President's administration and the \$350 billion that we passed recently, in addition to the tack-on to the child tax credit, they ran it up to \$82 billion, I wonder what those funds could possibly have done for the children of America? I, for one, would have preferred to spend it on them, rather than on rich people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to 21/2 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from Connecticut DELAURO), a continuing fighter and champion for children.

□ 1400

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this legislation would authorize \$312 million for several programs that seek to prevent child abuse, expand adoption opportunities, assist abandoned infants, and prevent family violence; good goals, good values, good measures. Child abuse is an important issue. It has many, many manifestations. It is attributable to many causes, including, and let me just mention, there is a pending issue in this body, a piece of unfinished business that pertains to our Nation's children; and, if you will, our delaying on this issue directly abuses American children.

What we need to do is to restore the child tax credit to the 6.5 million families this Republican leadership continues to leave behind. That is child abuse. The families of 12 million children generally earn minimum wage. They are tax-paying families. They de-

serve tax relief like every other family. They have bills to pay, mouths to feed, children to care for, just like every other family. And with the economy stuck in a rut, they cannot go to bed at night knowing whether their job will even be there for them the week after next.

These families pay taxes. They make between \$10,500 and \$26,600 a year. They pay taxes, payroll taxes, sales taxes, excise taxes, property taxes. And they pay a greater share of their income in taxes than Enron did; and for the last 5 years, I say to my colleagues, Enron paid zero taxes. There are lots of individuals who are getting the benefit of \$93,000 worth of tax cuts every year, those who are the 184,000 millionaires in this country. I will bet some of them have not paid all of the taxes that they were supposed to have been paying all of these years.

That is why what this House needs to do is to take up the other body's child tax credit legislation, legislation that was denied a simple up or down vote in

the House of Representatives.

Let me be clear. The majority has said that these 6.5 million families are not their priority. What they tried to do last week is, in essence, they passed a bill here which would kill the opportunity for the \$3.5 billion to address this issue and it would be taken care of. I would just quote the Committee on Ways and Means chairman. He says he is going to be heavily focused on a different issue and that they would be surprised if a conference between the House and Senate could begin this week. They are going to kill this piece of legislation because they do not really care about the 6.5 million families or the 12 million children.

Mr. Speaker, let us do the right thing. Let us address this issue. Let us end this kind of child abuse.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Marietta, Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), one of our

bright young Republican Members. Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SES-

SIONS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I have to admit, of course, as a freshman legislator, I am here to speak in favor of the rule for the conference agreement to S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, and to speak in favor of the overall piece of legislation. But I stand here and I am listening to the other side and all of the discussion I hear is about a tax bill, and it just makes me wonder if the speakers from the other side plan to vote against this bill, if they are opposed to keeping children and families safe for the foreseeable fu-

I am, as most of my colleagues know, a physician Member, Mr. Speaker, of this body; and, in particular, I am an OB-GYN doctor. As such, over the past 28 years, I have delivered over 5,000 precious children. Unfortunately, I wish I could say they were all born healthy and well and in the best of circumstances, but unfortunately, some

were not. I think that my passion for this type of legislation, for protecting children and making sure that every child has an opportunity to be well born and in a healthy environment and going into a healthy family situation, that is what this legislation is all about.

We can talk about the child tax credit and tax issues ad infinitum, but we have already had that debate. What we are talking about here today on the floor of the House is this conference committee report and the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Adoption Opportunities Program, the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. That is what this debate is about. I would hope and trust that the Members of the other side will support unanimously this legislation, because we desperately need to protect those of our society, the most precious and vulnerable members of our society; and that is what this great piece of bipartisan legislation is all about.

I am very proud to serve on the Committee on Education and the Workforce and to serve under my subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), who brings this bill to us, this reauthorization. It was an honor, it was an honor indeed for this freshman Member of Congress to be appointed to the conference committee on this bill. In fact, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) said to me, he had been here 10 years before having an opportunity to be appointed to a conference committee.

So it is indeed a privilege. I think it shows a lot of respect for me as a physician Member and someone who is often in that delivery room seeing these children who may be very possibly born in a situation where the mom has been on substance abuse or drugs during the pregnancy and we, many times, are highly suspicious of that situation because of the condition of the child, the irritability of the child during the physical examination. These children have a certain physical appearance which is very suggestive in some instances of alcohol or substance abuse. And to just simply go from that delivery room to the next one or the next one, or go from there to a surgical procedure, and then back to the medical office where you might see an additional 30 patients a day would be unconscionable.

So this bill calls for, among other things, reporting these instances. I cannot tell my colleagues how supportive I am of this legislation, and I am proud of the leadership for bringing it to us.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), my good friend who has been a continuing champion for children in this body and in his previous life before coming here.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Flor-

ida (Mr. HASTINGS), my friend, for yielding me this time.

The underlying bill here I think reflects not only bipartisanship, but our common set of values. It is the right approach to how to protect our children.

As the brother of a sister who is adopted, I applaud the efforts that are reflected here and the attempt here. But that bipartisanship, also those common set of values that we come together on, is in sharp contrast to what was done on the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, the other day The New York Times reported that in Iraq right now, 200,000 Iraqis are getting \$20 a day who do not show up for work. Mr. Speaker, 200,000 Iraqis, \$20 a day who do not show up for work. I come from Chicago. We know something about noshow jobs. We think they are a good thing, periodically. But that stands in stark contrast to the 200,000 active duty troop members who are over there putting their lives on the line who will not get the full child tax credit. Now, where in our common values do we respect the people of Iraq, give them 20 bucks a day who do not show up for work, and yet, to our troops who are over there in Afghanistan and Iraq, whose families are only getting \$450 per child tax credit, but not the full \$1,000. Where in our common set of values do we say that is the right thing to do?

Over the weekend the AP ran a story that Halliburton's bid for the oil drilling and oil work that they are doing in Iraq originally for \$77 million is now running double. It was a no-bid contract and Halliburton, in the year of 2001, did not pay any Federal income taxes and, in fact, got an \$85 million rebate. Last week when we were debating the child tax credit, some people described welfare as the full refundable credit; and I have a description of welfare, it is known as corporate welfare, that was done in Halliburton's case.

We here in Congress earn \$12,800 a month. That is equivalent to what some of these families earn in a full year who are worthy of this child tax credit.

So I applaud the efforts that were done here to reflect our values and to take care of our children. I applaud the work done here on this bill; but I want to remind our colleagues, this bill's success comes from not only our bipartisanship but working on a common set of values. We need now to come together, come together, work on the conference, Democrats and Republicans, produce a bill, because as July approaches, some families will get this tax cut and other families, 12 million children, 6.5 million families who work full-time, sometimes more than 40 hours a week, will not be getting that tax credit.

Now, originally this bill was passed to get a tax cut to get the economy moving. It was in there in the Senate when they went to conference, but when the Vice President showed up, somehow it got dropped. We all have an

obligation from the White House to the Senate to the Congress, Democrats and Republicans, to work together to give these middle-class families a tax cut.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the close of this matter, I will urge that Members pay attention to a request on the previous question, and I will urge Members to vote "no" on the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, I will offer an amendment to the rule, and my amendment will provide that as soon as the House passes the conference report, it will take from the Speaker's table and immediately consider the Senate-passed version of H.R. 1307, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act. My amendment will also add to H.R. 1307 the text of H.R. 1308, as passed by the Senate, which restores the refundable child tax credit that was removed from the Republican tax bill passed last month.

This will allow the House to combine these two Senate-passed bills and immediately send them back to the Senate and then, hopefully, on to the President's desk for his signature. If this happens, we can begin helping America's lower- and modest-income families right away, and we can give tax relief to those members of the military who are bravely fighting for this Nation as we speak.

Is it not about time we started giving tax breaks to those Americans who really need it? And is it not about time we put an end to legislation that has no chance of becoming law?

Last week, the President said he would sign H.R. 1308, as it was passed by the Senate, and restore the refundable tax credit to those families making between \$10,000 and \$26,000. H.R. 1308, as amended by the Senate, will provide immediate tax relief to America's hard-working, but struggling, families by extending the child tax credit to 6.5 million low-income working families and nearly 12 million additional children. This measure will provide help to the families of 8 million children whose parents serve in the military or are veterans. It will also help families of soldiers in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan by extending the child tax credit to many of them.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1307 will also help our brave men and women serving in the military. It will help with travel costs for those called up for the National Guard and Reserves, and it will provide benefits for the families of the Columbia astronauts.

Vote "no" on the previous question so we can combine and then consider these two important tax relief bills as they passed in the Senate and rush them back to the Senate. Let us not let tax relief for these two important and deserving segments of our society wither on the vine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question so we can consider tax relief that can actually become law and really help those most in need of tax relief.

I want to emphasize that a "no" vote will not prevent the House from considering the conference report for this very important legislation, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act. It will allow us to consider the Senatepassed versions of the refundable child tax credit and the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act, in addition to this important conference.

□ 1415

However, a yes vote will stop us from voting on this package of true tax relief for lower income Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the RECORD immediately before the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to vote no on the previous question, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the gentleman from Florida for his support of this conference report, S. 342, Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, we have had a good debate today. We have talked about the children of this country. We have talked about our communities. We have talked about our schools. We have talked about the desire that we have as this United States Congress, this administration, President George Bush and the kind and gracious leadership of this House, including our Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), and our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), to time after time take time out of their schedule not only to talk about children, children that are the future of this country and will make a difference, but also that these three gentleman, as leaders of our country. take time to make sure that this administration and the laws of this country are there to protect children, the most vulnerable part of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what this will do. This conference report will go to help people. It will strengthen our communities. It will strengthen community-based organizations who work in a way that we need them to become efficient and be efficient and to offer these services.

I am proud of what we are doing. I am proud of what this Congress is doing, and Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule and the underlying legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 276 the Rule governing debate on S. 342, the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003." This

rule waives all points of order against the Conference Report and its consideration.

Just last week, this Chamber vigorously debated the Child Tax Credit bill. The Republican members of the House of Representatives refused to adopt the Senate-passed tax bill that would have provided relief to 12 million children of hard-working American families. My Democratic colleagues offered a substitute to aid America's children but it was voted down. We have still not passed a Child Tax Credit for America's low-income children.

Now, we prepare to debate the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. Another bill that is beneficial to America's children by taking strong steps to prevent child abuse. This bill governs dissemination of information about abused children, expands valuable research programs, authorizes grant programs, and many other valuable programs.

The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act was an opportunity to redress the failures of this body in our failure to pass the Child Tax Credit bill last week. By passing this rule, we continue to neglect and jeopardize the welfare of America's children and families, by not immediately passing the Senate Child Tax Credit bill so the President can immediately sign the

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the Rule governing debate on the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act. I find it ironic that the title of the bill is the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act, and yet will have not passed real Child Tax Credit. This rule jeopardizes America's children, bill for America's most vulnerable children.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida is as follows:

PREVIOUS QUESTION FOR H. RES 276 RULE ON CONFERENCE FOR KEEPING CHILDREN & FAMILIES SAFE ACT

At the end of the resolution insert the following new section:

'SEC. 2. Immediately after disposition of the conference report, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1307) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and a motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of the Senate amendment to the text of H.R. 1308 shall be considered as pending without intervention of any point of order. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 8 and 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by a 5-minute vote on adopting H. Res. 276, if ordered; suspending the rules and adopting H. Res. 171; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 658 with an amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 200, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 279] YEAS—226

Fossella Aderholt Franks (AZ) Akin Bachus Frelinghuysen Baker Gallegly Garrett (NJ) Ballenger Barrett (SC) Gerlach Bartlett (MD) Gibbons Barton (TX) Gilchrest Bass Gillmor Beauprez Gingrey Bereuter Goode Biggert Goodlatte Bilirakis Goss Bishop (UT) Granger Blackburn Graves Green (WI) Blunt Boehlert Greenwood Boehner Gutknecht Harris Bonilla Bonner Hart Hastings (WA) Bono Boozman Hayes Hayworth Bradley (NH) Brady (TX) Hefley Brown (SC) Hensarling Brown-Waite, Herger Ginny Hobson Burgess Hoekstra Burns Hostettler Burr Houghton Burton (IN) Hulshof Buyer Calvert Hunter Hyde Camp Isakson Cannon Issa Istook Cantor Janklow Capito Carter Jenkins. Johnson (CT) Castle Chabot Johnson (IL) Chocola Johnson, Sam Jones (NC) Cole Keller Collins Kelly Kennedy (MN) Cox Crane King (IA) Crenshaw King (NY) Culberson Kingston Cunningham Kirk Davis, Jo Ann Kline Knollenberg Deal (GA) Kolbe LaHood DeLay DeMint Latham Diaz-Balart L. LaTourette Diaz-Balart, M. Leach Lewis (CA) Doolittle Dreier Lewis (KY) Duncan Linder LoBiondo Lucas (OK) **Ehlers** Manzullo Emerson English McCotter Everett McCrerv McHugh Feeney Ferguson McInnis Flake McKeon Fletcher Mica Miller (FL) Foley

Forbes

Miller, Gary Moran (KS) Murphy Musgrave Myrick Neugebauer Nev Northup Norwood Nunes Nussle Osborne Ose Otter Oxlev Paul Pearce Pence Peterson (PA) Petri Pickering Pitts Platts Pombo Porter Portman Pryce (OH) Putnam Quinn . Radanovich Ramstad Regula Rehberg Renzi Reynolds Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rogers (MI) Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Royce Ryan (WI) Ryun (KS) Saxton Schrock Sensenbrenner Sessions Shadegg Shaw Shavs Sherwood Shimkus Shuster Simmons Simpson Smith (MI) Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Souder Stearns Sullivan Sweeney Tancreďo Tauzin Taylor (NC) Terry Thomas Thornberry

Tiahrt

Tiberi

Miller (MI)

Wamp Weldon (FL)

Wilson (NM)

Wilson (SC)

Toomey Turner (OH)

Rush

Upton Weldon (PA) Wolf Vitter Weller Young (AK) Walden (OR) Whitfield Young (FL) Walsh Wicker NAYS-200 Abercrombie Hall Oberstar Ackerman Harman Obey Alexander Hastings (FL) Olver Allen Hill Ortiz Hinchey Andrews Owens Hinojosa Baca Pallone Baird Hoeffel Pascrell Baldwin Holden Pastor Ballance Holt Payne Honda Becerra Pelosi Hooley (OR) Bell Peterson (MN) Berkley Hoyer Pomerov Berry Inslee Price (NC) Bishop (GA) Israel Rahall Bishop (NY) Jackson (IL) Rangel Blumenauer Jackson-Lee Reves Boswell (TX) Rodriguez Boucher Jefferson Ross Boyd .John Rothman Brady (PA) Johnson, E. B. Roybal-Allard Brown (OH) Jones (OH) Ruppersberger Brown, Corrine Kanjorski Rush Capps Kaptur Ryan (OH) Capuano Kennedy (RI) Sabo Cardin Kildee Sanchez, Linda Cardoza Kilpatrick Carson (OK) Sanchez, Loretta Kleczka Case Sanders Clay Kucinich Clyburn Lampson Sandlin Schakowsky Convers Langevin Schiff Lantos Cooper Larsen (WA) Costello Scott (GA) Cramer Larson (CT) Scott (VA) Crowley Serrano Lee Cummings Levin Sherman Lewis (GA) Davis (AL) Skelton Lipinski Davis (CA) Slaughter Lowey Lucas (KY) Davis (FL) Snyder Davis (IL) Solis Davis (TN) Lynch Spratt DeFazio Maiette Stark DeGette Maloney Stenholm Delahunt Markey Strickland Marshall Del.auro Stupak Matheson Deutsch Tanner Dicks Matsui Tauscher Dingell McCarthy (MO) Taylor (MS) McCarthy (NY) Doggett Thompson (CA) Dooley (CA) McCollum Thompson (MS) Dovle McDermott Tierney Edwards McGovern Towns McIntyre McNulty Emanuel Turner (TX) Engel Udall (CO) Eshoo Meehan Udall (NM) Etheridge Meek (FL) Van Hollen Evans Meeks (NY) Velazquez Menendez Farr Visclosky Fattah Michaud Miller (NC) Waters Filner Watson Ford Miller, George Frank (MA) Watt Mollohan Frost Moore Waxman Moran (VA) Weiner Gonzalez Gordon Murtha Wexler

NOT VOTING-8

Woolsey

Wynn

Berman Lofgren Millender-Smith (WA) Carson (IN) McDonald Gephardt Nethercutt

Nadler

Napolitano

Neal (MA)

Green (TX)

Grijalva

Gutierrez

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1439

Ms. SOLIS and Mr. RUSH changed their vote from "yea" to "nay.

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

SPEAKER pro tempore. The The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and 9 of rule XX, the remainder of votes in this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH BULLDOGS FOR WINNING THE NCAA 2003 NA-TIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 171.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 171, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 280]

YEAS-423 Abercrombie Burton (IN) Doggett Buyer Dooley (CA) Ackerman Aderholt Calvert Doolittle Akin Camp Doyle Alexander Cannon Dreier Allen Duncan Cantor Andrews Capito Dunn Edwards Baca Capps Bachus Capuano Ehlers Baird Emanuel Baker Cardoza Emerson Baldwin Carson (OK) Engel Ballance English Carter Ballenger Case Eshoo Castle Barrett (SC) Etheridge Bartlett (MD) Chabot Evans Barton (TX) Chocola Everett Bass Farr Clay Beauprez Clyburn Fattah Becerra Coble Feenev Bell Cole Ferguson Filner Bereuter Collins Berkley Convers Flake Berry Fletcher Cooper Biggert Costello Foley Bilirakis Forbes Cox Bishop (GA) Cramer Ford Fossella Bishop (NY) Crane Bishop (UT) Crenshaw Frank (MA) Blackburn Crowley Franks (AZ) Blumenauer Culberson Frelinghuysen Blunt Cummings Frost Boehlert Cunningham Davis (AL) Gallegly Garrett (NJ) Boehner Davis (CA) Gerlach Bonilla Davis (FL) Gibbons Bonner Bono Davis (IL) Gilchrest Davis (TN) Gillmor Boozman Davis, Jo Ann Davis, Tom Boswell Gingrey Boucher Gonzalez Deal (GA) Boyd Goode Bradley (NH) Brady (PA) DeFazio Goodlatte DeGette Gordon Brady (TX) Delahunt Goss Brown (OH) DeLauro Granger Brown (SC) DeLay Graves

Brown, Corrine

Brown-Waite,

Ginny

Burgess

Burns

Burr

DeMint

Dicks

Dingell

Deutsch Diaz-Balart, L.

Diaz-Balart, M.

Green (TX)

Green (WI)

Greenwood

Grijalva

Gutierrez

Gutknecht

Harman Harris Hart Hastings (FL) Hastings (WA) Hayes Hayworth Hefley Hensarling Herger Hinchey Hinojosa Hobson Hoeffel Hoekstra Holden Holt Honda Hooley (OR) Hostettler Houghton Hoyer Hulshof Hunter Hyde Inslee Isakson Israel Issa Istook Jackson (IL) Jackson-Lee (TX) Janklow Jefferson Jenkins John Johnson (CT) Johnson (IL) Johnson, E. B. Johnson, Sam Jones (NC) Jones (OH) Kanjorski Kaptur Keller Kelly Kennedy (MN) Kennedy (RI) Kildee Kilpatrick Kind King (IA) King (NY) Kingston Kirk Kleczka Kline Knollenberg Kolbe Kucinich LaHood Lampson Langevin Lantos Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham LaTourette Leach Lee Levin Lewis (CA) Lewis (GA) Lewis (KY) Linder Lipinski LoBiondo Lucas (KY) Lucas (OK) Lynch Majette Maloney Manzullo Markey Marshall Matheson Matsui

McCollum McCotter McCrery McDermott McGovern McHugh McInnis McIntvre McKeon McNulty Meehan Meek (FL) Meeks (NY) Menendez Mica Michaud Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Miller (NC) Miller, Gary Miller, George Mollohan Moore Moran (KS) Moran (VA) Murphy Murtha Musgrave Myrick Nadler Napolitano Neal (MA) Neugebauer Nev Northup Norwood Nunes Nussle Oberstar Obey Olver Ortiz Osborne Ose Otter Owens Oxley Pallone Pascrell Pastor Paul Payne Pearce Pelosi Pence Peterson (MN) Petri Pickering Pitts Platts Pombo Pomerov Porter Portman Price (NC) Pryce (OH) Putnam Quinn Radanovich Rahall Ramstad Rangel Regula Rehberg Renzi Reyes Reynolds Rodriguez Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rogers (MI) Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Ross Rothman Roybal-Allard

McCarthy (MO) McCarthy (NY) Ryan (OH) Ryan (WI) Ryun (KS) Sabo Sanchez, Linda Sanchez, Loretta Sanders Sandlin Saxton Schakowsky Schiff Schrock Scott (GA) Scott (VA) Sensenbrenner Serrano Sessions Shadegg Shaw Shays Sherman Sherwood Shimkus Shuster Simmons Simpson Skelton Slaughter Smith (MI) Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Snyder Solis Souder Spratt Stark Stearns Stenholm Strickland Stupak Sullivan Sweeney Tancredo Tanner Tauscher Tauzin Taylor (MS) Terry Thomas Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Thornberry Tiahrt Tiberi Tierney Toomey Towns Turner (OH) Turner (TX) Udall (CO) Udall (NM) Upton Van Hollen Velazquez Visclosky Vitter Walden (OR) Walsh Wamp Waters Watson Watt Waxman Weiner Weldon (FL) Weldon (PA) Weller Wexler Whitfield Wicker Wilson (NM) Wilson (SC) Wolf Woolsey Wii Wynn Young (AK) Ruppersberger Young (FL)

NOT VOTING-11

Lofgren Nethercutt Berman Carson (IN) Peterson (PA) Lowey Cubin Millender Smith (WA) Gephardt McDonald Taylor (NC)